

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 EB-11 SAM-01 DPW-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 AID-20 DRC-01 /166 W
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R 081450Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0763

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4722

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IN PK BG

SUBJECT: TRIPARTITE TALKS

REF: NEW DELHI 4660

1. INDO-PAK-BANGLADESH TALKS PROCEEDING SLOWLY WITH FOREIGN
MINISTERS ENGAGED APRIL 6-7 LARGELY IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS
WITHOUT ADVISORS. KEY ISSUE CONTINUES TO BE RETURN OF 195
POWS AND TERMS ON WHICH THIS WILL TAKE PLACE. PAK DELEGATION
OFFICIAL (SATTAR) TOLD EMBOFF WEARILY LATE IN EVENING OF
APRIL 7 THAT HE THOUGHT AGREEMENT WOULD EVENTUALLY BE REACHED
BUT PROBLEM WAS CHIEFLY IN FINDING "FACE-SAVING" FORMULA WHICH
MET BOTH BANGLADESH AND PAKISTANI DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS.
FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD HAVE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES IN BOTH COUNTRIES,
HE SAID, CERTAINLY IN PAKISTAN. OFFICIAL SAID QUESTION OF
ADDITIONAL REPATRIATION FROM BANGLADESH TO PAKISTAN HAD COME UP
AND BEEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH, BUT HE DID NOT THINK THIS WOULD
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BE REAL STUMBLING BLOCK. GOP HAD MADE CLEAR THAT IT WOULD

BE RESETTLING TOTAL OF 147,000 PERSONS FROM BANGLADESH
(INCLUDING THOSE REPATRIATED VIA NEPAL) ALTOGETHER AND WOULD
SIMPLY NOT DO MORE.

2. BILATERAL INDO-PAK DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN HELD AT WORKING LEVEL,
BUT NO REAL PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON DEFINING ELEMENTS OF
PARA 3 OF SIMLA AGREEMENT TO BE PURSUED AT THIS TIME. NEGOTIATIONS
ON RENEWAL OF AVIATION LINKS AND OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS WOULD BE
VERY DIFFICULT AND INVOLVED MAJOR QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE FOR
PAKISTAN, BUT RESUMPTION OF OTHER TRANSPORTATION LINKS COULD
BE AGREED TO EASILY. TRADE COULD BE DISCUSSED IN GENERAL, BUT
PAK BUSINESSMEN WOULD HAVE TO EXAMINE DIRECTLY PROSPECTS FOR
COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD ONLY OCCUR AFTER TRAVEL
RESUMED. PAKS FOUND INDIAN LOGIC DIFFICULT IN ARGUING FOR FULL REVIEW
ON VISAS PRIOR TO ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, OFFICIAL
SAID, BUT, SHURGGING, SAID GOP HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN PRINCIPLE
IN DISCUSSING THIS TOPIC. GOP WILLING TO WAIT FOR EXCHANGE
OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IF INDIANS PREFERRED. PAKISTAN
WOULD GET NO MORE FROM RESUMPTION THAN INDIA DID.

3. PAK OFFICIAL SAID GOP SIDE HAD BEEN IRRITATED BY ANNOUNCEMENT
THAT INDIA AND BANGLADESH HAD REACHED AGREEMENT BEFORE MEETING
BEGAN BUT THEN COMMENTED THAT FONMIN SWARAN SINGH CONVEYED
AN EXCELLENT IMPRESSION OF CALM AND SENSIBILITY WHICH MUCH
IMPRESSED THE PAK DELEGATION. OFFICIAL COMMENTED HE THOUGHT
CURRENT MEETING WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE LAST TRIPARTITE
CONFERENCE IN THIS ROUND WHICH PAKS WOULD WANT TO ATTEND.

4. COMMENT: NEGOTIATIONS SEEM TO BE FOLLOWING GENERAL PATTERN
IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SUBCONTINENTAL STATES: SLOW START, SEEMING
STALEMATE, EVENTUAL RESOLUTION.
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